

Matthew 8:18-27

Application Questions

1. In verses 18-11, Jesus speaks to two potential disciples. What is the common theme in what He says? How might this have deterred them from following Christ? How might this have empowered them to follow Christ and finish well?
2. Read the following verses on discipleship: Luke 6:46, 9:23, 14:26. Which is the greatest challenge for you? Why? Knowing the cost, are you willing to yield your life fully to Christ? Is there something God is telling you to put on the altar of sacrifice?
3. Storms can suddenly arise in our lives with no warning (job loss, sickness, conflict, betrayal, accidents, the loss of loved ones, etc.). When this happens, do you panic? Does it feel like the Lord is sleeping or that He doesn't care? What do you do? What should you do? (See Psalm 121:1-4, 50:15.)
4. Reread verse 18. Why should the disciples have had faith through the storm rather than being fearful? Explain how faith and fear are mutually exclusive. (If you have one, you can't have the other.) Are there people or circumstances now that are making you afraid? How can you overcome this fear with faith?
5. Read John 14:1-3. What does Jesus tell us to do when we are troubled? Read John 14:27 and Colossians 3:15. What does the Lord give us to keep our hearts from being troubled or afraid? Is this acting as the umpire of your heart, guiding your thoughts and actions? Why or why not?